# MEC News

Missouri Ethics Commission James Klahr, Executive Director

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## Are you required to file a PFD?

#### **Annual Filers:**

If your name was submitted to our office by a political subdivision (county, city, board, school district, etc.) as a person required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) due to a position held in 2014, then you must file your PFD by 5:00 pm on May 1, 2015. Annual filers must file for each year (or portion of a year) for which they hold a position that requires the filing of a PFD.

Watch your mail for a letter with instructions for e-filing along with your MEC Online ID and Password to e-file.

If you fail to file by May 1, 2015, you will be assessed a late filing fee of \$10.00 per day. After 30 days the fee increases to \$100 per day, not to exceed \$6,000 Additional penalties may also apply.

Time period covered for an annual filer is Jan 1, 2014-Dec 31, 2014\*.

#### **Candidate Filers:**

If you are required to file a PFD due to the office you are seeking in the April election, then you must file your PFD by **5:00 pm on Feb 3**, **2015**. Failure to file by Feb 3, 2015, will result in late fees, failure to file by Feb 10, 2015 will result in disqualification and removal from the ballot, unless your subdivision has a conflict of interest ordinance on file. If filing deadlines are then not met, penalties (if any) are assessed by the subdivision according to its ordinance.

\*Time period covered for an incumbent candidate, or candidate who is also an annual filer, on Apr 7, 2015 election ballot, is Jan 1, 2014—Jan 20, 2015.

Time period covered for a new candidate, or candidate who is <u>not</u> also an annual filer, on Apr 7, 2015 election ballot is Jan 20, 2014—Jan 20, 2015.

## Meet Commissioner Deeken...

Bill Deeken was appointed to the Commission on February 28, 2014, for a 4 year term ending March 15, 2018. Mr. Deeken had previously represented the citizens of Cole County for 20 years as both the County Clerk (1991-2002) and later as State Representative (2003-2010). Commissioner Deeken's experience as a local election authority and in the Missouri House, where he served as Chair of the House Elections Committee, makes him an asset to the Commission.

View list of all <u>Commissioners</u> currently

serving.



**Newly appointed or employed filers**—PFDs are due within 30 days of appointment/ hire date; time period is calendar year before start date.

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## **♦ LOBBYIST REMINDERS** ♦

- Lobbyist Renewal was due Jan 5th, 2015. If lobbying must register within five days of beginning lobbying activity.
- Verify current registration info by logging-in to lobbyist e-file system.
- List of Principals and Legislative Action Report: This report is filed twice each year due on March 15 and May 30 and filed with MEC. Include general description of proposed legislative action which the lobbyist (or lobbyist principal) supported or opposed.
- FAQ: What is a lobbyist expenditure? Money spent for public official, their staff or family or for a group. See <u>Lobbyists FAQS</u> for more information.

**Our Mission:** The MEC serves the public interest by promoting and maintaining transparency, accountability, and compliance with campaign finance, lobbying, and conflict of interest laws. We educate and assist the citizens of Missouri, public officials, lobbyists, and those participating in public elections by increasing awareness and understanding of the law. We investigate and enforce these laws consistently.

## **Training News**

We started a new series of webinars designed **for political subdivision clerks and local election authorities** and are pleased that the first sessions for the *Notice to Candidate Form Webinar* had over 100 attendees! For those subdivisions with an AOB over \$1 million the second webinar in the series, Candidate List Webinar, is now **open for registration**.

**CANDIDATES**: If you are required to file a PFD, we are now offering PFD for Candidates Webinar, view training schedule to see available sessions and to register. Campaign Finance Record-Keeping and Reporting Webinars will begin in February, watch website for details.

#### **MEC Staff Profile**

Craig Hollis recently received a *Certificate of Recognition* for his work with the Commission, including his role in implementing a new case management system. He is a Computer Information Technologist III and has been with the Commission for 14 years.

"Craig and his work are a foundation of the IT unit and the Commission. His contribution to MEC is felt by everyone that uses our website and electronic filing systems", said Richard Gerling, Director of Information Services.

## Good Job!

## **Campaign Finance Reminders**

The time period covered for a full disclosure report starts the day after the 'closing date' of the last full disclosure report filed through the closing date of the current report being filed. Do not double report activity by including it in more than one report.

MEC recommends a **full disclosure report** to be filed every reporting period to aid in record-keeping and reporting.

Successful candidate committees in last election: 1) cannot accept contributions until an <u>Amended Statement of Committee Organization</u> form (paper) is filed with a new, future, election date; and 2) On the first report of your new election cycle, aggregates for Receipts, Expenditures, and Contributions Made will start back at \$0; Money on Hand and Indebtedness will carry forward.

It is the responsibility of the committee to make sure all information, including email addresses, are **current and up to date**; check your committee's information by using the <u>Candidate or Committee Name Search</u>. If updates are needed, file an Amended Statement of Committee Organization within 20 days of the change; if your committee name changes, the committee **must also change the bank account name** to match the new committee name.

Committees must file a **48 Hour Report of Contribution Over \$5,000** within 48 hours of receipt AND must include the same contribution in the disclosure report covering the time period in which it was received. The committee must file **both** reports.

View <u>Deadlines & Reminders</u> for report due dates and information **by election date**, including information specifically for the 2015 <u>St. Louis City Primary/General Elections</u> and <u>Kansas City Elections</u>.

## Lobbyists

**Enhancements** 

**M** 

MEC enhanced Lobbyist searches, including:

Lobbyist Expenses on Public Official(s) Search - Information now sorted by the **position** the public official held at the time of the expenditure.

Lobbyist Search - In addition to a lobbyist's information, search now provides the **total amount** of reported expenditures for the year as well as for each month.

#### Advisory Opinions

MEC streamlined its <u>Advisory Opinions Search</u>, including new search option tabs:

- > Opinion by Topic
- Search by Keyword
- > Search by Statute
- Opinions by Date

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